

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of routing a SIP call within an automatic contact distributor system wherein an initial SIP message of the SIP call from a caller is forwarded to the automatic contact distributor system via a first server, such method comprising the steps of:

transferring control of the SIP call to a buffer server;

selecting an agent of the automatic call distributor system to handle the SIP call;

setting up a the SIP call connection between an the selected agent of the automatic call distributor system and a client of the automatic call distributor the caller so as to route any SIP messages between the agent and the caller through the buffer a second server;

re-addressing modifying any source addresses of the SIP messages sent from the agent to the caller and received by the buffer second server from the agent by substituting an address of the second server in SIP messages sent from the agent to the caller and forwarding the re-addressed modified SIP messages to the client caller thereby protecting anonymity of the agent from the caller; and

re-addressing SIP messages received from the client caller at the second server and forwarding the re-addressed SIP messages to the agent.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of routing the SIP call as in claim 1 further comprising receiving a SIP INVITE from the client caller by the automatic contact distributor system requesting a communication session with an agent of the automatic contact distributor.

3. (Original) The method of routing the SIP call as in claim 2 further comprising determining a call type from the SIP INVITE.

4. (Original) The method of routing the SIP call as in claim 3 further comprising

selecting the agent based upon the determined call type.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of routing the SIP call as in claim 4 wherein the second server is a buffer server and the step of transferring control of setting up the call further comprises forwarding the SIP INVITE to the buffer server along with an identifier of the selected agent.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of routing the SIP call as in claim 5 wherein the step of ~~transferring control of~~ setting up the call further comprises entering the SIP INVITE into a routing table within the buffer server along with ~~an~~ the identifier of the selected agent.

7. (Original) The method of routing the SIP call as in claim 5 wherein the step of forwarding the SIP INVITE to the buffer server further comprises appending the identifier to a universal resource identifier of the buffer server within the SIP INVITE.

8. (Original) The method of routing the SIP call as in claim 5 wherein the step of forwarding the SIP INVITE to the buffer server further comprises encoding the SIP INVITE as an instant message.

9. (Original) The method of routing the SIP call as in claim 5 wherein the step of forwarding the SIP INVITE to the buffer server further comprises encoding the SIP INVITE for forwarding using a tunneling protocol.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a SIP call within an automatic contact distributor system wherein an initial SIP message of the SIP call from a caller is forwarded to the automatic contact distribution system, such apparatus comprising:

~~means for transferring control of the SIP call to a buffer server;~~

means for setting up a the SIP call connection between an a selected agent of the

automatic call distributor system and ~~a client of the automatic call distributor~~ the caller so as to route any SIP messages between the agent and the caller through the a buffer server;

means for ~~re-addressing~~ modifying any source addresses of the SIP messages sent from the agent to the caller and received by the buffer server from the agent by substituting an address of the buffer server in SIP messages send from the agent to the caller and forwarding the ~~re-addressed~~ modified SIP messages to the ~~client~~ caller thereby protecting anonymity of the agent from the caller; and

means for re-addressing SIP messages received from the ~~client~~ caller by the buffer server and forwarding the re-addressed SIP messages to the agent.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 10 further comprising means for receiving a SIP INVITE from the ~~client~~ caller by the automatic contact distributor system requesting a communication session with an agent of the automatic contact distributor.

12. (Original) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 11 further comprising means for determining a call type from the SIP INVITE.

13. (Original) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 12 further comprising means for selecting the agent based upon the determined call type.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 13 wherein the means for ~~transferring control of~~ setting up the call further comprises means for forwarding the SIP INVITE to the buffer server along with an identifier of the selected agent.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 14 wherein the means for transferring control of the call further comprises means for entering the

SIP INVITE into a routing table within the buffer server along an the identifier of the selected agent.

16. (Original) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 14 wherein the means for forwarding the SIP INVITE to the buffer server further comprises means for appending the identifier to a universal resource identifier of the buffer server within the SIP INVITE.

17. (Original) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 14 wherein the means for forwarding the SIP INVITE to the buffer server further comprises means for encoding the SIP INVITE as an instant message.

18. (Original) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 14 wherein the means for forwarding the SIP INVITE to the buffer server further comprises means for encoding the SIP INVITE for forwarding using a tunneling protocol.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a SIP call within an automatic contact distributor system wherein an initial SIP message of the SIP call from a caller is forwarded to the automatic contact distributor system, such apparatus comprising:

~~a proxy server adapted to transfer control of the SIP call to a buffer server;~~

a buffer server adapted to set up a the SIP call connection between an a selected agent of the automatic call contact distributor system and ~~a client of the automatic call distributor the caller so as to route any SIP messages between the agent and the caller through the buffer server;~~

a connection processor adapted to ~~re-addressing~~ modify any source addresses of the SIP messages sent from the caller and received by the buffer server from the agent by substituting at the buffer server an address of the buffer server in SIP messages sent from the agent to the caller

and forwarding the ~~re-addressed~~ modified SIP messages to the ~~client caller~~ thereby protecting anonymity of the agent from the caller, and to re-addressing SIP messages received from the ~~client caller at the buffer server~~ and forwarding the re-addressed SIP messages to the agent.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 19 further comprising a user agent within the automatic contact distributor system adapted to receive a SIP INVITE from the ~~client caller~~ requesting a communication session with an agent of the automatic contact distributor.

21. (Original) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 20 further comprising a call type processor adapted to determine a call type from the SIP INVITE.

22. (Original) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 21 further comprising an agent selection application adapted to select the agent based upon the determined call type.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 20 wherein the buffer server further comprises a routing table for re-addressing the SIP messages that are transferred between the agent and the ~~client caller~~ agent.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 21 ~~wherein the proxy server further comprises~~ comprising a proxy server having an Internet connection that allows the proxy server to forward the SIP INVITE to the buffer server along with an identifier of the selected agent.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 24 wherein the SIP INVITE forwarded to the buffer server ~~further comprises an~~ the identifier of the selected agent appended to a universal resource identifier of the buffer server.

26. (Original) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 21 wherein the SIP INVITE forwarded to the buffer server further comprises an instant message.

27. (Original) The apparatus for routing the SIP call as in claim 21 wherein the SIP INVITE forwarded to the buffer server further comprises a message encoded using a tunneling protocol.